

Monson
Parks and Recreation Department

Facilities Tour



2008

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Starting at Bliss Street, we arrive at the grassy area of the former **Ellis Mill**. The entire area consists of 10 acres. The Town demolished the structure in the fall of 2000. The Town received a grant for this demolition as it had created a dangerous condition to local residents and safety personnel. The Town currently maintains a lien on the property in the amount of \$486,074. We currently maintain $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of this site so we do not have another eyesore on our hands, such as we have at the former South Main Street school.

If the Town were ever to take ownership of this property it would make for a beautiful place to make a little park. The waterfall located on the west end is striking.



Ellis Mill Site

As we head north up Route 32 we stop at the **House of Art**. This building is the former Town Annex building. Current occupants of the building include the Monson Tourism Committee/Association and the Monson Arts Council.

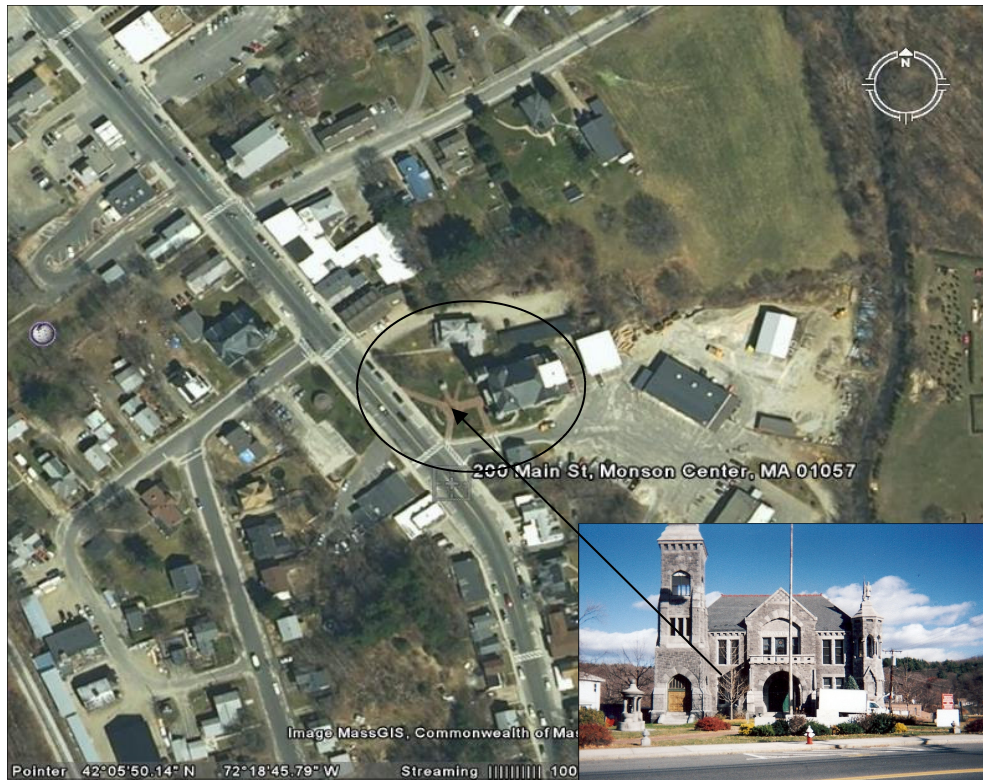


House of Art

Directly next door is the historic **Memorial Hall**. Dedicated in 1885 as a memorial to soldiers this building is one of the treasures of Monson. There is approximately 1/2 acre of land to maintain here.

Many memorials, benches, flags and walkways have been added to this facility.

We do receive some help from the Garden Club here. They plant flowers, help weed beds and water plants, and we appreciate their help in the upkeep.



Memorial Hall

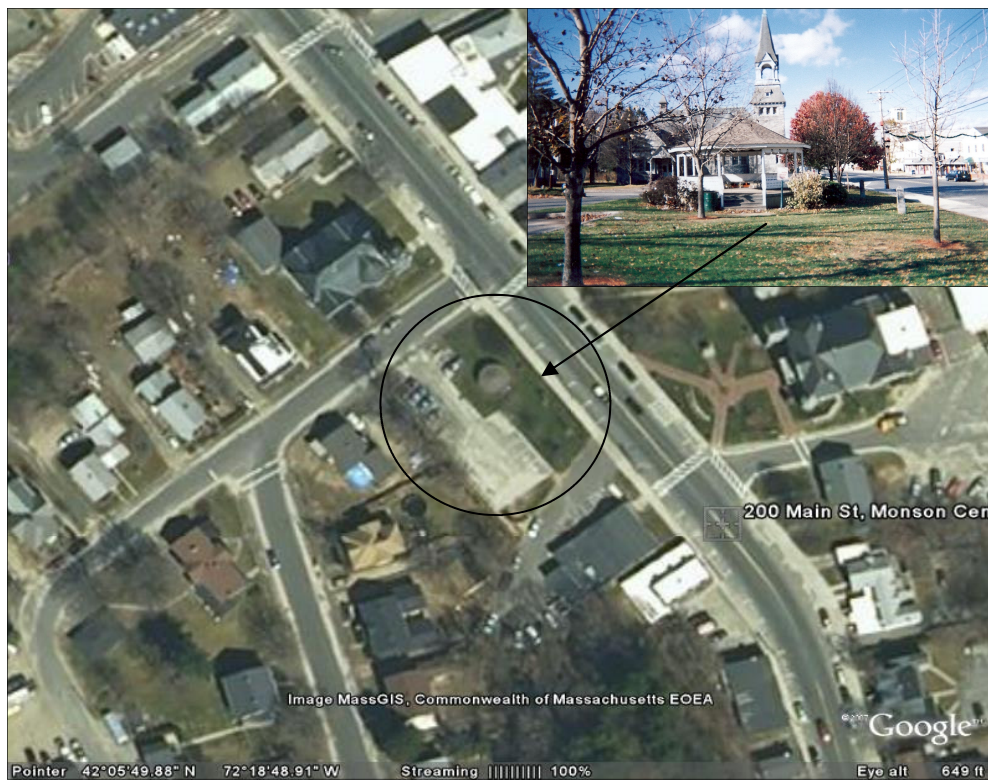
Located behind the House of Art is the **Monson Fire Station**, and the Parks and Recreation Department has agreed to maintain these grounds in order to save the Fire Department the purchase of a new mower.



Monson Fire Station

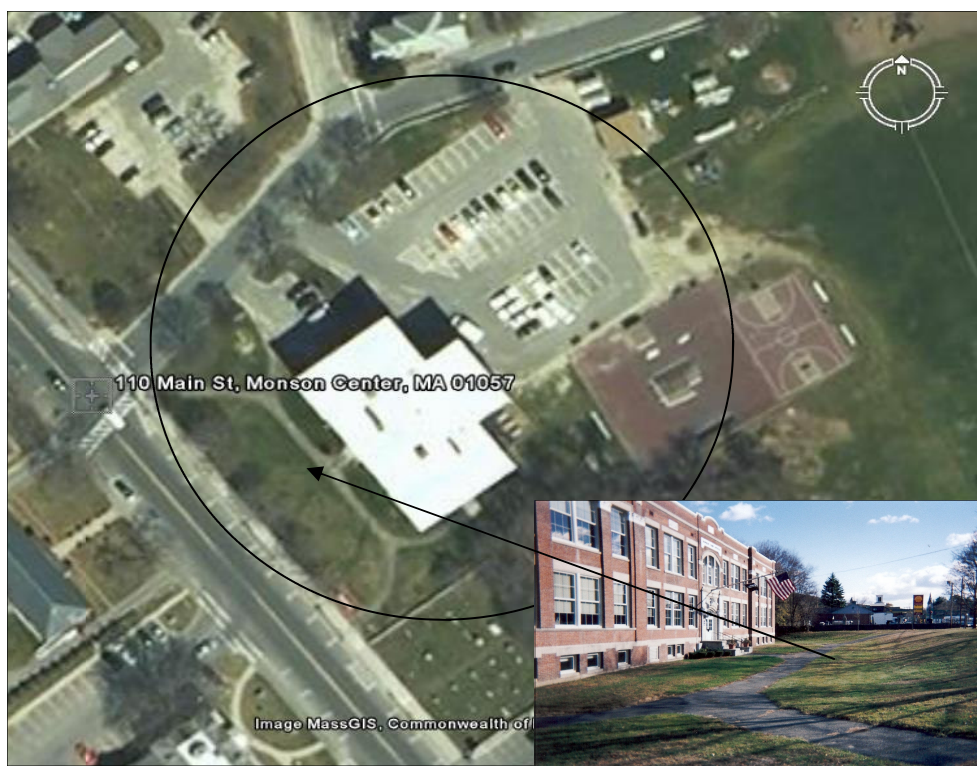
Located across the street is **Dave Grieve Park**. Recently added are park benches, a memorial to Andy Piwcio and Mike Bolaske, fencing between property lines and the Town Clock.

The gazebo in the park is home to many town events, including concerts and the town wide tag sale.



Dave Grieve Park

Going north on Main Street we stop at the corner of 110 Main Street and State Street. Here we find the original Monson High School, now home to a majority of Town Offices.



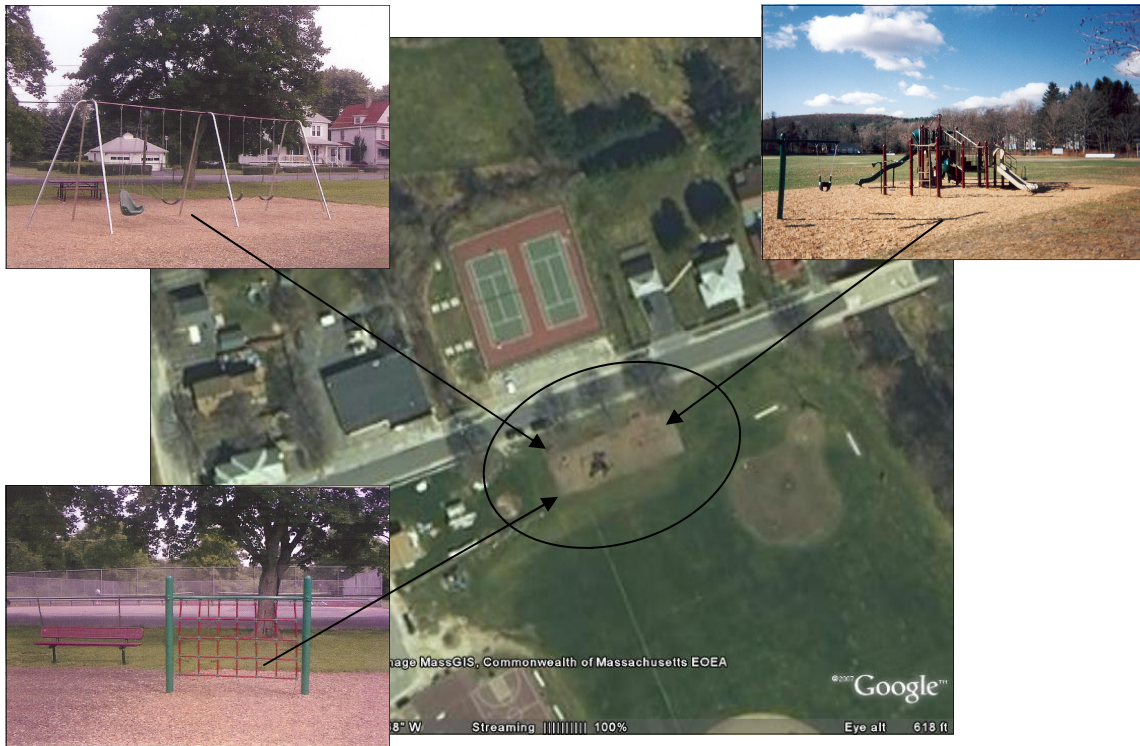
Municipal Office Building

Take a right onto State Street and about 1/4 mile on your left you will find the town **Tennis Courts** and **Horseshoe Pits**.



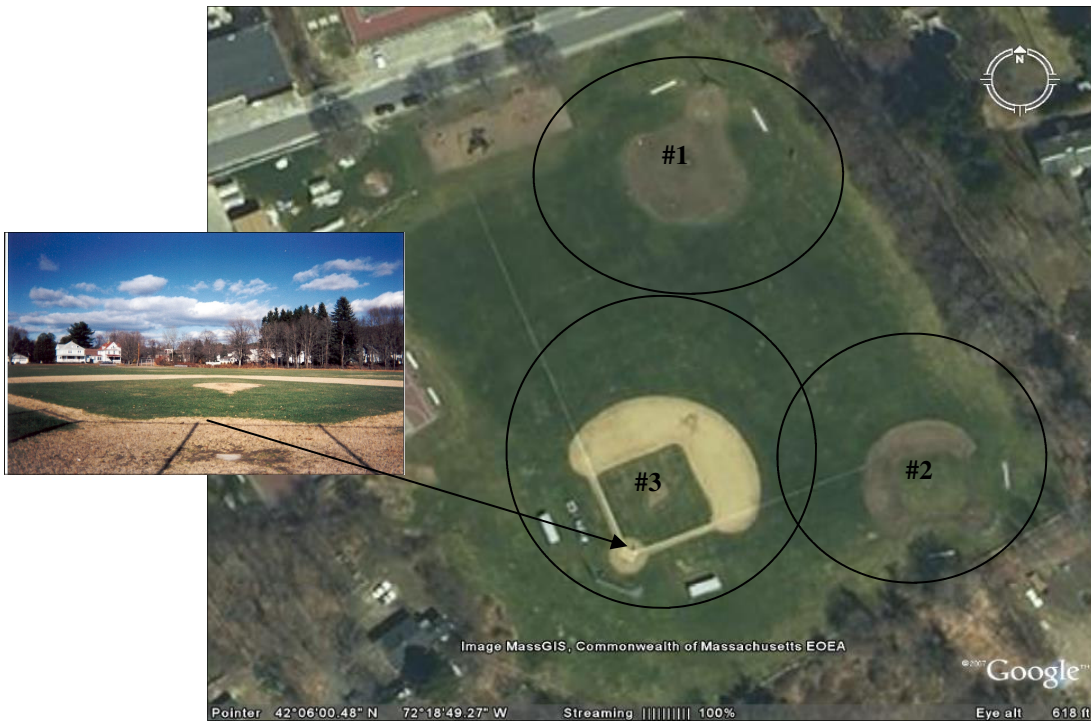
Tennis Courts and Horseshoe Pits

Across the street, along the fence you will see the Town's **Playground**. A new swing recently was added, which was a generous contribution from the Monson Rotary Club.



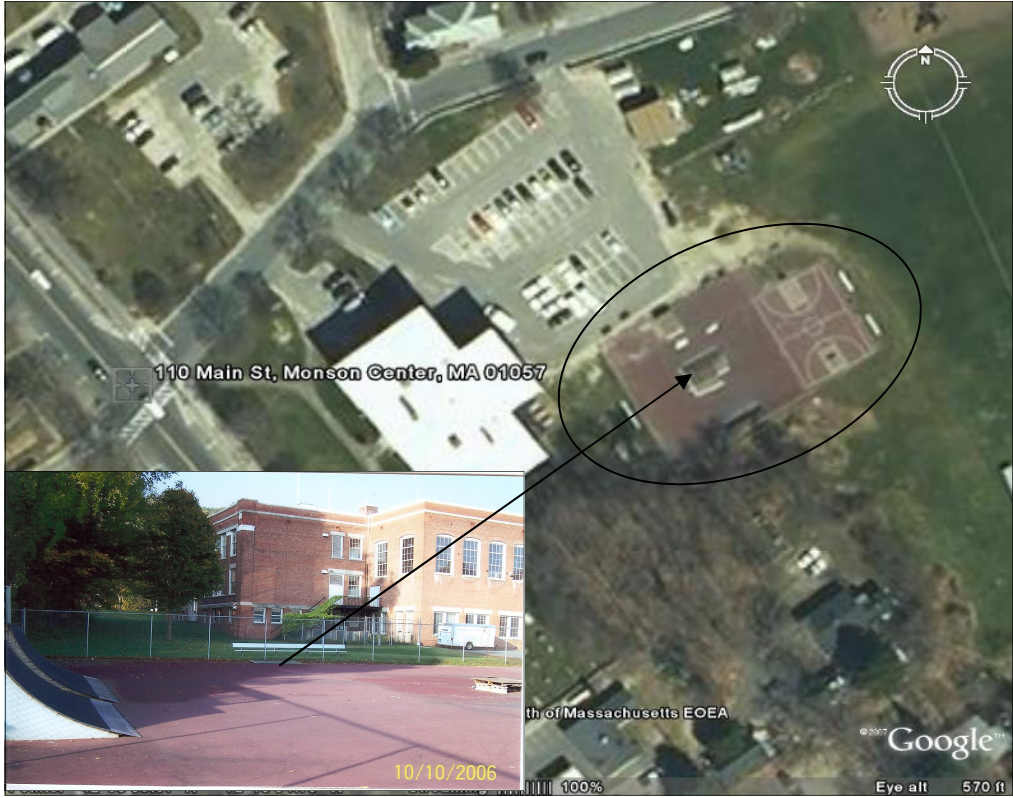
Playground

Looking out from the Playground you see **Veterans Field**. Dedicated as Veterans Field on October 1, 1960, this facility has many, many uses. During the spring and summer the baseball fields are used and in the fall two soccer fields are located here. This is also the home to Monson High School's Junior Varsity baseball team.



Veterans Field

The **Skate Park** is also located at Veterans Field. The Skate Park and adjacent basketball courts are used daily from April through the end of October. Each spring the park is gone through before opening to check all pieces for safety.



Skate Park

The last piece of Veterans Field is our **Storage Facility**. All the pieces of equipment we own and use are stored in an around this building.



Storage Facility

As we cross over State Street and onto Washington Street we will stop at **Cushman Field**. Spring and summer are the busiest times at this location. Our 5th and 6th Grade baseball program calls this home. This currently is our only 75' diamond so it is used every night and weekend. This past fall Cushman Field was used as a practice facility for soccer.



Cushman Field

Heading north we pull onto Park Road, home to Flynt Park. The first field is known as **Lower Rogers Field**, which includes surrounding grass bankings in its maintenance. Lower Rogers Field is the most used soccer field in Monson. The field is used three seasons per year.



Lower Rogers Field

Up the hill is where you will find **Upper Rogers** soccer field and the 3rd and 4th Grade baseball diamond. This facility is used spring and summer for baseball and late summer and fall for soccer.



Upper Rogers Field

The third parcel at Flynt Park is unnamed. The field was leveled and overseeded in the fall of 2006. We hope to convert this area into a baseball field someday. We are currently searching for funding to put up a backstop, homerun fence, player benches and protective fencing in front of the benches. The approximate cost of all these items total over \$20,000.

Even though this parcel is not actively being used as a game field, some teams are starting to practice on it.

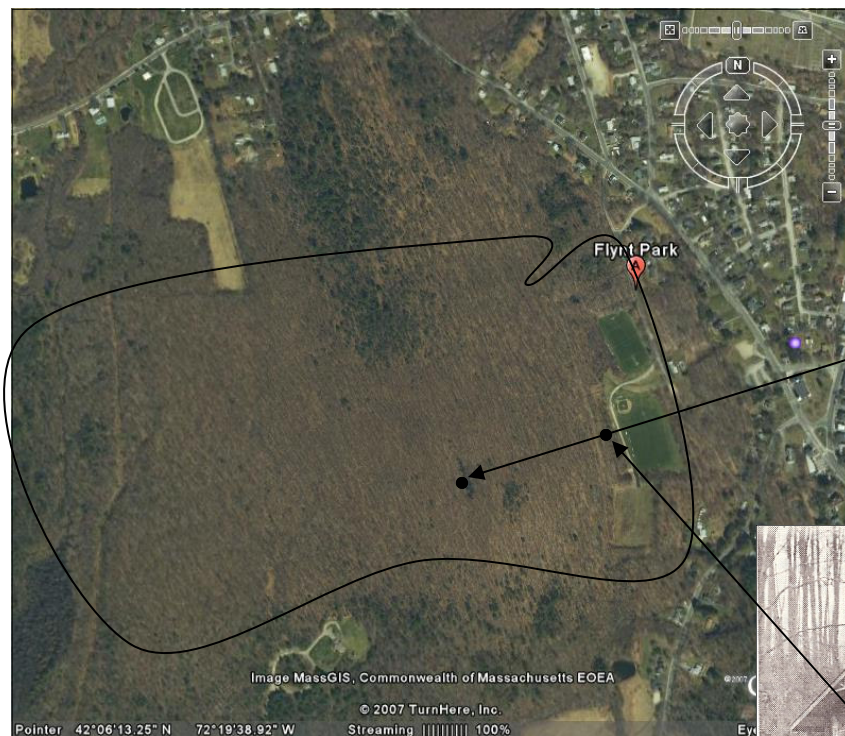
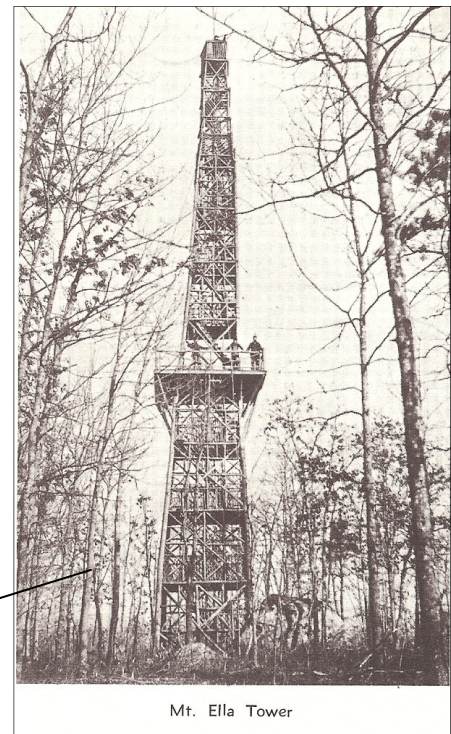


3rd Field at Flynt Park

The total parcel of land at **Flynt Park** is 138 acres with trails located throughout the area. At the current time no general maintenance is done on the acreage that is not fields. Someday I hope to see the trail to the top of Mount Ella fixed from the washouts so residents can hike the trail. Flynt Park truly is a beautiful place and we hope to restore some brush areas to the original grassy state as in years past.

Pictured below is the 100' tower that stood at the top of Mount Ella. The tower was attached to a big boulder which is also shown in the picture.

Rumor has it that from that tower you could see Boston Harbor on a clear day!



Flynt Park



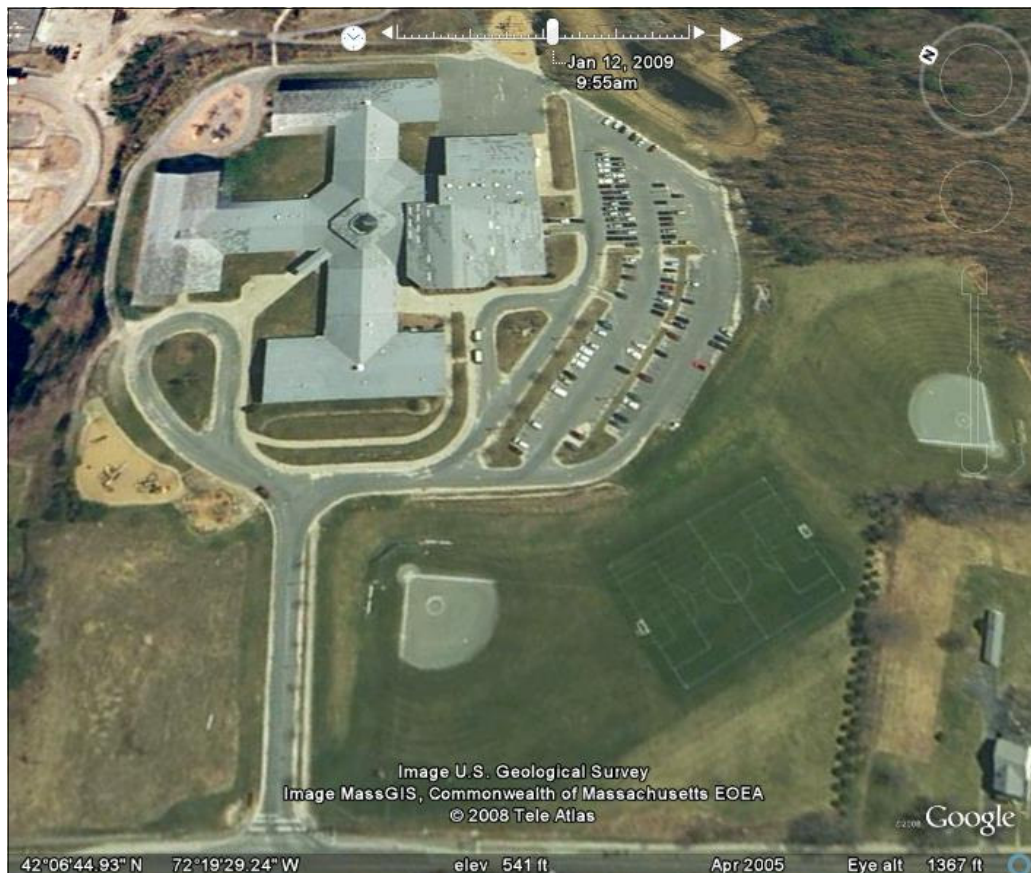
The Monson Parks and Recreation Department recently acquired the maintenance of all school grounds for each of the three schools. We take great pride in setting up and maintaining the schools' entryways and athletic fields and setup for all outdoor High School Athletic contests.

We have left Flynt Park and we now stop at **Quarry Hill Community School** on Margaret Street. As you look up the driveway you see large bankings and two large playing fields.

The first field is know as Quarry Hill #1 and is home to the Varsity Softball team, 5th and 6th Grade softball team, 7th and 8th Grade softball team and summer softball team. This field gets used from April through August. Spring and fall Pioneer Valley Soccer teams also call this field home.

The upper softball field is known as Quarry Hill #2 and is home to the Junior Varsity softball team and 3rd and 4th Grade softball team.

In addition to those areas listed above, the Parks and Recreation Department maintains three playgrounds, and surrounding grounds located just outside the physical building.



Quarry Hill Community School

Just north of Quarry Hill Community School we find **Monson High School**. As you pull in the driveway you will find a grass banking on the left and grass most of the way up the driveway on the right hand side.

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the entire school grounds here, which includes the **Ronald Constantino Baseball Field** (see page 19), **JV Soccer Field** (see page 20), and the **Cross Country Trail** (see page 21).



Monson High School

In front of Monson High School is **Ronald Constantino Baseball Field**, home of the Varsity Baseball team, as well as summer baseball.



Behind Monson High School is the home of the boys Junior Varsity Soccer Team, gym class and practice facility. The Monson Lacrosse Association also uses this field, as well as Pioneer Valley Soccer teams.



Monson High School Soccer Field

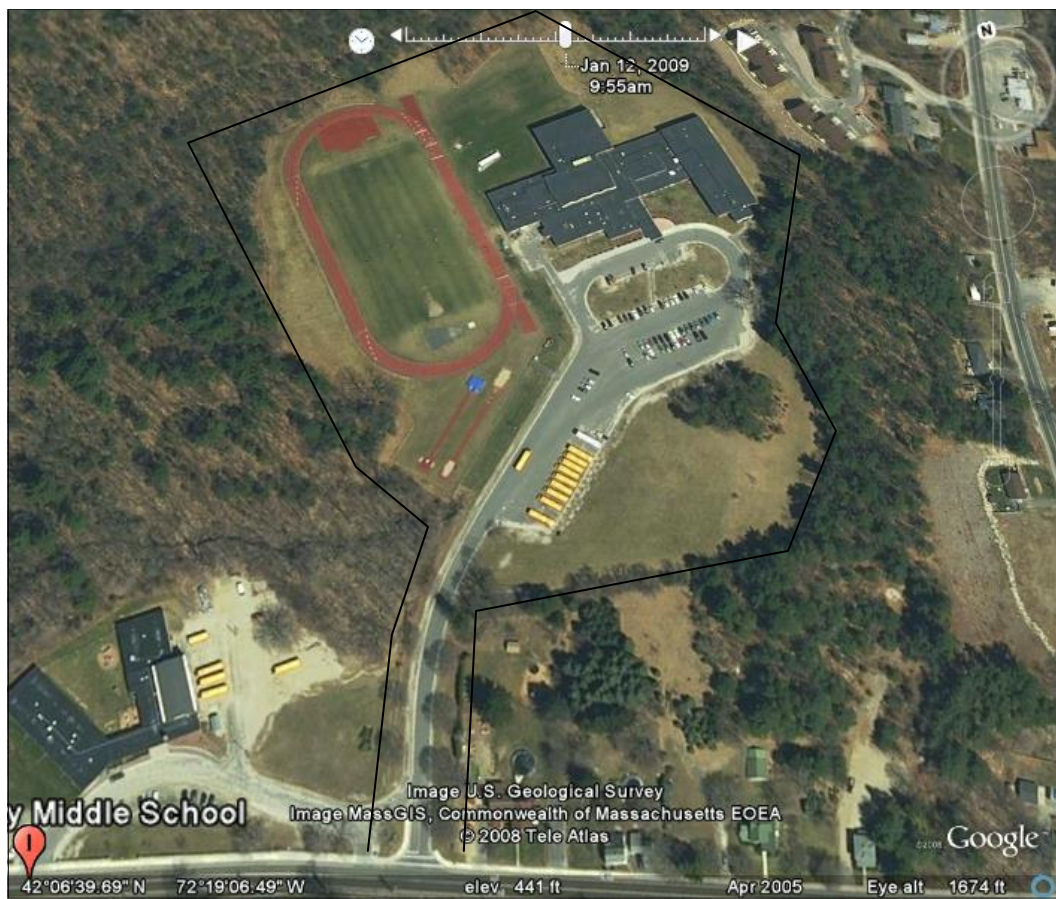
During the fall the Parks and Recreation Department maintains the High School **Cross Country** team's trail. This trail is approximately 2.75 miles long and includes about 1.5 miles of wooded trail.



Cross Country Trail

We head back south down Margaret Street and go onto Thompson Street, home of **Granite Valley Middle School**.

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the entire school grounds of Granite Valley, as well as the **William Devine Track Facility** and **Robert E. Moriarty Soccer Field** (see page 23).



Granite Valley Middle School

Located on the grounds of Granite Valley Middle School is the **Varsity Boys Soccer field and the Boys and Girls Track team facilities.**

General maintenance performed here includes mowing, trimming, blowing off the track and setting up for games and contests. This takes approximately 3 ½ hours, including the natural bleachers next to the track. The sprinkler system was repaired in the fall of 2007 and routine inspection will now have to be done to confirm proper spraying is happening.

We generally spend 6 hours here per week doing mowing, trimming and trash removal.

Future plans may include this area being the home of Monson Lacrosse.



**William Devine Track Facility and
Robert E. Moriarty Soccer Field**

Starting recently we have taken over the grounds maintenance of the Water and Sewer Department.

The first location is on Old Wales Road. **Conant Brook Dam** offers a beautiful waterfall.



Conant Brook Dam

Located on Ely Road is the **water storage tank**.



Ely Road Tank

Located on Route 32 across from the Quaboag Heights Community is the **Palmer Road Station**.



Palmer Road Station

Bunyan Road is located off of Route 32, north of National Grid. There is a grassy area out in front of the well and a long road behind the well.



Bunyan Road Well

Located off of Route 32 just before the Palmer town line is **Hospital Road**.
The sewer station is located here.



Hospital Road Sewer Station

Equipment Maintenance List

| <u>NAME OF EQUIPMENT</u> | <u>YEAR</u> | <u>USES</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| John Deere 850 Tractor | 1982 | Fertilizing, brush cutting, aerating, spraying |
| Vicon Spreader | 1998 | Fertilizing, seeding |
| Toro Aerator | 1991 | Plug aerating |
| Woods Brush Hog | 1995 | Brush cutting on sides of fields |
| 55 gallon Sprayer | 2007 | Field spraying |
| (2) 54" John Deere Walk-Behind Mower | 2002 | All small and banked areas |
| (2) 60" Exmark Lazer Mowers | 2003 | All fields and large areas |
| John Deere 455 Tractor | 1998 | Infield maintenance, rototilling and small bucket work |
| Dethatcher | 2002 | |
| Tow Overseeder | 2002 | |
| York Rake | 1985 | Infield maintenance |
| Nail Spiker | 2005 | Infield maintenance |
| 3' Drag | 1990 | Infield maintenance (small areas) |
| 5' Drag | 2002 | Infield maintenance (large areas) |
| (2) Kawasaki String Trimmers | 1997 | Trimming |
| Efco Brush Cutter | 1995 | Brush cutting |
| Little Wonder Blower | 2003 | Leaf cleanup and track debris blow off |
| Kawasaki Back Pack Blower | 1998 | Walkway cleanings and trail maintenance |

Equipment Maintenance List (cont'd)

| <u>NAME OF EQUIPMENT</u> | <u>YEAR</u> | <u>USES</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| 60" John Deere Mower | 1998 | Back-up in case lazer mower breaks down |
| 70" Ransomes Mower | 1991 | Back-up in case lazer mower breaks down |
| Lazer Paint Machine | 1998 | Paint all soccer and baseball lines |
| Earth Auger | 2003 | Post hole digger |
| Ryan Sod Cutter | 2003 | Goal mouth sodding and infield repair |
| Jonsared Hedge Trimmer | 1992 | Trimming hedges |
| 50 Gallon Tank Sprayer | 1997 | Spray infields |
| (2) Back Pack Sprayers | 1997 | Spray infields |
| Pick-Up Truck | 1985 | Tows landscape trailer |
| Landscape Trailer | 2007 | Haul mowers and equipment |
| Pick-Up Truck | 1999 | Tow open trailer |
| Big Tex Trailer | 2002 | Haul mowers and equipment |
| Air Compressor | 1998 | To operate air tools and blow off equipment |
| Utility Trailer | 1985 | Transport broken equipment to be fixed |
| Crown Victoria Car | 2006 | Transport employees and errand runs when trucks are in use |

NOTE: The above items are a list of "big ticket" items. We also have many hand tools which are too numerous to mention in this report. Each piece of equipment has its own unique function and is used for a specific purpose. Many of these items are used on a daily basis and are with us each and every day.